

2270 Private Kindergarten Approval

2/1985

Statutory Authority 16 VSA §166(b)

2271 Procedure for Approval

2271.1 Application

Every person or entity seeking to operate as an approved kindergarten shall apply in writing to the Commissioner of Education.

An application for approval shall contain the following:

Name and address of the school;

A description of the school's curriculum and methods of instruction;

A description of the school's physical facilities;

A list of the school's staff and their qualifications;

The operating schedule of the school; and

A statement certifying that the school is in compliance with the Kindergarten-Nursery School provisions in the Regulations for Day Care of the Social and Rehabilitation services Department (hereinafter "S.R.S. Kindergarten Regulations").

2271.2 Appointment of Reviewer

Upon receipt of an application for approval, the Commissioner shall appoint an educator to review the application and visit the school. In addition, the Commissioner shall contact S.R.S. to determine on his or her behalf whether the school meets the "S.R.S. Kindergarten Regulations". First priority for review shall be given to private kindergartens that are located in the vicinity of towns where the local school board or town has taken a formal vote to provide public supported kindergarten.

2271.3 Review

The appointed educator shall review the application and visit the school.

2271.4 Report to Commissioner

The appointed educator shall present a written recommendation regarding approval to the Commissioner. The report of the appointed educator shall incorporate the determination of S.R.S. concerning compliance with the “S.R.S. Kindergarten Regulations”. A copy of the recommendation shall be provided at the same time to the applicant.

2271.5 Board Recommendation

The Commissioner shall recommend approval or disapproval for action by the State Board at their next meeting. Officials of the kindergarten shall be notified of this meeting date.

2272 Criteria for Approval

The State Board shall approve a private kindergarten if it finds that:

2272.1 The curriculum embodies a minimum course of study, as defined in 16 VSA §906, Courses of Study, with learning experiences adapted to a pupil’s age and ability.

2272.2 The school is in compliance with state requirements pertaining to the health and safety of pupils adopted by the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Health. In regards to health requirements, private kindergartens located in elementary or secondary school buildings shall comply with the Environmental Health Regulations for School Houses (Chapter 5, Subchapter 3, Vermont Health Regulations). All other private kindergartens shall comply with the Environmental Health Regulations for Day Care Facilities (Chapter 5, Subchapter 14, Vermont Health Regulations).

2272.3 The director and teachers in the kindergarten are qualified through training or experience in:

structuring kindergarten learning environments which enhance cognitive and social development;

teaching skills and concepts in mathematics, language arts, science, the arts, and health which are consistent with principles of child development.

planning and leading activities that foster social and emotional growth in young children;

dealing with parents and family of children to ensure home support and to promote learning outside of the school or center, and

identifying developmental delays in young children.

2272.4 The kindergarten maintains an operating schedule that, exclusive of time allowed for meals and recess periods, includes a total number of instructional hours which is not less than that required of a public school kindergarten. (State Board of Education Policy Manual, 1981, Section 2311.4).

2272.5 The facility and program meet the “S.R.S. Kindergarten Regulations”.

2273 Additional Requirements

2273.1 Approved private kindergartens shall maintain records of attendance, health, and progress for public tuition students, in a form required by the school district and in accordance with state and federal law. These records shall be transferred to the public schools no later than July 15 after the end of the school year.

2273.2 The director and teachers in an approved private kindergarten shall participate in professional development activities provided by the public school district.

2274 Term of Approval

The State Board may grant approval for a term of not more than two years. A private kindergarten must be approved prior to receiving tuition payments from a public school district.

2275 Denial, Revocation or Suspension of Approval

Prior to recommending denial, revocation or suspension of approval to the State board, the Commissioner shall notify the kindergarten of the reasons for the proposed action and shall afford the kindergarten an opportunity to be heard by the Board. Approval of a kindergarten shall be revoked or suspended by the Board based on a finding that the kindergarten no longer meets the criteria for approval.